M/s IRCON for ensuring targets committed by M/s IRCON etc. The work is now expected to be completed by March 2009.

Inland Water Transport

2270. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme for promoting Inland Water Transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to open the extant National Waterway fully for transportation; and

(d) if so, by when it would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government has already declared three rivers/canal system, as National Waterways namely (i) the Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia (1620km.) (ii) the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 km.) and (iii) the West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram along with Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 km.). Basic infrastructural facilities for shipping and navigation namely navigational channel, navigational aids, and terminals are being provided on these National Waterways.

. Further, following three rivers/canal systems are in the process of declaration as National Waterways.

(i) Kakinada-Puducherry Canals along with rivers Godavari and Krishna (1095 km.).

(ii) East Coast Canal along with river Brahmani and Mahanadi Delta (623 km.).

(iii) River Barak (121 Km.).

(c) and (d) An action plan has been drawn up to make the 3 existing National Waterways fully functional by March 2010, subject to availability of funds.

Inland Water Transport in Kerala

2271. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated schemes to augment Inland Water Transport;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes;

(c) whethgr Government received projects for the development of Inland Water Transport in the State of Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether necessary approval of these projects have been granted; and

(f) the details of the funds released, if any, to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government has already declared three rivers/canal systems as